

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 01415 190642Z

15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 NSC-05 /028 W

----- 088545

R 190439Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9665

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 1415

USIAC

FOR IOP, IPS, IBS

EO 11652: NA

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. UNDER THE HEADING "PIRACY ACT", THE DOMINION (CIRC 74,500)
COMMENTED ON MAY 16, ON THE SEIZING OF THE MAYAGUEZ, AS FOLLOWS:

2. "THE SEIZURE OF THE UNITED STATES 10,000 TON CONTAINER SHIP
MAYAGUEZ AND ITS 39 CREW BY THE CAMBODIAN AUTHORITIES WAS A
SENSELESSLY PROVOCATIVE ACTION THAT DEVELOPED INTO A MAJOR
INTERNATIONAL CRISIS. THE IMMEDIATE OVER-REACTION ON THE
PART OF PRESIDENT FORD WAS UNDERSTANDABLE, GIVEN THE WAY
EVENTS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA HAVE FLOWED OVER THE PAST MONTHS.
THERE WERE STRONG PRESSURES ON THE PRESIDENT, ESPECIALLY ON

THE PART OF RIGHT-WING ELEMENTS IN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, TO
TAKE THE SORT OF ACTION THAT HIS PREDECESSOR LYDNON JOHNSON
DID DURING THE TONKIN GULF CRISIS IN 1964.

3. "THE ASEAN COUNTRIES HAVE TAKEN A CONTRUCTIVE STANCE ON THE
NEW REGIMES IN CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM BY SUGGESTING
THEY JOIN THE ASSOCIATION. THE STABILITY OF THE ASIAN
AREA DEPENDS A GREAT DEAL ON GOVERNMENTS WITH DIFFERENT
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POLITICAL PHILOSOPHIES ACCEPTING THEIR MUTUAL

DIFFERENCES. THE ACTION OF THE CAMBODIAN REGIME HARDLY
BODES WELL FOR A NEW ERA OF RECONSTRUCTION AND CO-
EXISTENCE."
HOULAHAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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